

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02

CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04

CEA-01 PA-02 PRS-01 /093 W

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R 060612Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9441

INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

UNCLAS CANBERRA 8781

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EALR, ELAB, ECON, AS

SUBJECT: NOVEMBER UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

REF: CANBERRA 8164

1. AUSTRALIAN EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS FOR NOVEMBER, RELEASED DECEMBER 3, SHOW SOME DETERIORATION OVER PREVIOUS MONTH. UNADJUSTED NUMBER OF REGISTERED UNEMPLOYED AT END OF NOVEMBER STOOD AT 272,518 AND REPRESENTED 4.53 PCT. OF WORK FORCE, IN COMPARISON TO 4.36 PCT. IN OCTOBER.

2. AFTER FALLING SOMEWHAT IN OCTOBER TO 5.2 PCT NSW UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ROSE TO 5.36 PCT. IN NOVEMBER AND COULD WELL HAVE BEEN HIGHER WERE IT NOT FOR FACT THAT SCHOOL LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS WERE HELD LATER THAN USUAL THIS YEAR. ONLY BRIGHT SPOT FOR NSW WAS 1,500 INCREASE IN JOB VACANCIES.

3. IT WIDELY EXPECTED THAT 200,000 SCHOOL LEAVERS WHO EXPECTED ENTER WORK FORCE IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY WILL SWELL

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UNEMPLOYED RANKS BY AS MUCH AS 70,000. MINISTER FOR

EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS STREET ADMITTEE AT TIME OF
RELEASE OF LATEST FIGURES THAT SCHOOL LEAVERS WOULD
PROBABLY BOOST UNEMPLOYMENT TO MORE THAN 5 PCT. DURING
THESE MONTHS.

4. STREET PREDICTED, HOWEVER, THAT AFTER PEAK IN
JANUARY, EMPLOYMENT SITUATION WOULD START TO IMPROVE.
STREET SAID THAT RECENT DECISION TO DEVALUE AUSTRALIAN
DOLLAR WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVEMENT AS, "VERY
SGNIFICANT NUMBER IN AUSTRALIA ARE UNEMPLOYED IN IMPORT
COMPETING INDUSTRIES AS WELL AS EXPORT INDUSTRIES." AS
MIGHT BE EXPECTED, OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN FOR INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS, RALPH WILLIS, SAID NOVEMBER FIGURES PROVIDED
MORE PROOF OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO RE-GENERATE
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.

5. COMMENT: BEGINNINGS OF SCHOOL-LEAVER INDUCED
INCREASE IN NOVEMBER UNEMPLOUMENT EXPECTED. WE EXPECT
THAT EFFECT OF DEVALUATION ON EMPLOYMENT IN IMPORT
COMETITIVE INDUSTRIES WILL BE SOMEWHAT SLOW IN COMING
AS THERE WILL BE FIRST TENDENCY TO INCREASE HOURS OF
OVERTIME WORKED SIGNIFICANTLY BEFORE TAKING ON NEW
EMPLOYEES.
HARGROVE

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